Narrowing the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) issue. "A Providers Perspective"

Providers of **ECCE** average a \$14,500.00 annual salary. Often they work with limited (if any) employment benefits: health insurance and retirement are primary examples.

Providers serve over 150,00 of Iowa's youngest children, 0-5.

The service they provide supports over 79% of Iowa's workforce.

In Iowa, families that are purchasing this service, pay on the low end \$4,500.00 (as a rule this reflects lower quality programs that adversely affect children's growth) to \$8,500.00, per child per year.

Ensure that the Quality Rating System provides for significant increases in state reimbursement rates <u>and</u> Provider training incentives for achieving the indicated quality!

Addressing this Iowa issue is a Critical Need!

<u>Brain research</u> overwhelmingly states: The rest of children's lives – their success in school, in business, in life - are tremendously impacted by the experiences they have these first 5 years of life.

The state dollars that Iowa "puts into the system" ranks us 45th among all states!

Investing in ECCE pays great dividends. All examples are Research based.

- Families are more successful when they must work and children are well cared for.
- Employers do better because employee attendance and productivity are better.
- Communities thrive because they are structured to meet critical community needs.
- Schools save money because there are less remedial expenses.
- Justice systems save money because fewer children are in them!

Investing in Early Childhood Care and Education are Economic Investments for All Iowa!

- Early Education Benefits Association – "We Support Providers and the Families they care for!"

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact an Early Education Benefits Association member at OBHFChildCare@AOL.COM